

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.: 10/774,879 Confirmation No.: 8822
Applicant(s): Illy
Filed: 02/09/2004
Art Unit: 1761
Examiner: Leslie A. Wong
Title: A METHOD OF MANUFACTURING A CHEESE OR MILK
PRODUCT BY MOLDING

Docket No.: 033339/274068
Customer No.: 00826

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated January 23, 2007, reconsideration by the Examiner and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully solicited in light of the accompanying remarks.

The parent of this application, which has issued as U.S. Patent 6,821,544, provides a novel method of making a molded cheese or non-frozen milk product. Through this novel method, it is possible to produce cheese or non-frozen milk products in a new physical form that has never been heretofore provided. The food product is molded into a predetermined three-dimensional shape and the product is capable of being stored and shipped in this unique new physical form.

The claims under consideration in this application are directed to this new and different molded food product. As defined in independent Claim 1, the molded food product includes a core formed of creamy or crumbly soft cheese or non-frozen milk product and the core is molded into a predetermined three-dimensional shape. A coating surrounds this core and imparts mechanical strength and/or nonstick properties to the molded food product. Applicant submits that Claim 1, and the claims dependent therefrom, clearly distinguish the invention over the cited prior art. Accordingly, reconsideration by the Examiner, withdrawal of the rejection and notification of the allowability of the product claims as submitted herewith are requested.